

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America
(12)

INCOMING

AMEMBASSY RIO

ACTION:

POL-3

~~SECRET~~

INFO:

CHARGE

O R 141852Z SEP 70

~~Classification~~

Control: 8570

AIDEP

FM AMCONSUL RECIFE

MINECON

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED

1750

USIS

INFO RUESUA/AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

OF AMERICA

POL/R

RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

ECON

RUESUP/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

E/COML

BT

~~SECRET~~ RECIFE 986

OCT 22 1970

MILGP-2

DAO-3

SUBJ: MARANHAO TORTURE REPORT

BELEM, PARA, BRAZIL

PALEGRE

REF: RIO 6699

FIELDS

1. IN OPEN TRIAL, TWO PRIESTS FREED LAST WEEK. TRIAL HELD IN SAO LUIS WITH AUDITOR AND JUDGES SENT FROM FORTALEZA TO FUNCTION AS 10TH MILITARY REGION MILITARY COURT.

2. CASE APPARENTLY FELL APART AS TWO ACCUSING WITNESSES STATED THEY WERE INSTIGATED BY FEDERAL POLICE TO MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS CONCERNING ACTIONS OF PRIESTS. OTHER PROSECUTION WITNESSES ALSO APPARENTLY CONTRIBUTED TO COLLAPSE OF CASE WHEN THEY FAILED SUBSTANTIATE ANY CLAIM OSUSQJBVERSION. ONE PROSECUTION WITNESS ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID THAT PRIESTS PREACHED OJOTHERLY LOVE.

3. OUR INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT FATHER MONTEIRO SHOWED MARKS ON LEGS AT TRIAL AND THAT HE PLASETZED A FULL ACCOUNT OF TORTURE AS PART OF HIS TESTIMONY. (TESTIMONY APPEARS AT COMPLETE ODDS STATEMENT BY GENERAL PIRES AS DESCRIBED REFTEL AND CONTRADICTS STATEMENT IN FORTALEZA PRESS MADE BY REGIONAL FEDERAL POLICE DELEGADO.)

4. TRIALMUTCOME APPARENTLY RECEIVED JOYFULLY BY EXTENSIVE MISSIONARY COMMUNITY AS WELL AS BY RESIDENTS OF AREAS SERVED BY PRIESTS. DEFENSE ATTORNEY DESCRIBED AS HAVING MADE EBULLIENT STATEMENT PRAISING THIS EVIDENCE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR JUSTICE IN BRAZIL AND URGING MISSIONARIES FROM ABROAFTO CARRY THIS WORD TO THEIR COUNTRIES. WE INFORMED THAT MILITARY COURT PERSONNEL AND PROCEDURE UNUSUALLY SENSITIVE TO DEFENDANTS, HELPFUL AND OBJECTIVE.

5. CONSISTENT WITH USUAL PRACTICE, FURTHER TREATMENT THIS CASE MAY OCCUR IN FORTALEZA.

6. MOST OF INFO IN PARAS 1 TO 4 OBTAINED FROM LETTER OF
~~PH~~

~~SECRET~~

EO25x1

